

606.1 General Requirements for Encroachment Location

Departmental policy prohibits the placement of longitudinal encroachments within controlled access rights-of-way. Requests for placement of longitudinal encroachments are permitted only when approved through the departmental exception process, through Headquarters Design & Local Programs (DLP), when no other reasonable alternative is available, and it has been determined that there is available space.

When prior rights are stipulated regarding the location within controlled access rights-of-way, encroachment permits shall be stamped "For Record Purposes Only" or "Freeway Permit," when determined by substantiation that is provided by the utility owner (see Section 601.1).

Under specific conditions, when the Department is responsible for the transmission and distribution of reclaimed water for its sole use, local public agencies and public water companies may be allowed to place transmission lines for reclaimed water within access controlled rights-of-way. When there is a proposed shared use of the reclaimed water, upon approval through the exception process, the utility facility owner shall be responsible for all initial and relocation costs, liability, maintenance of and other required conditions as specified.

Issuance of permits shall conform to policy on the "Accommodation of Utilities Within Freeway Rights of Way" (AASHTO, 1989; see Appendix A).

606.2 Access Requirements

If normal means of access to an encroachment inside State access control right of way is impossible, inordinately difficult, or unreasonably costly, a locked gate in the fence may be installed by a public or privately owned utility company at a suitable location upon approval by the Program Manager, DLP.

Planned emergency access from freeways and expressways for new or expanded development is prohibited. Emergency access shall be provided from local streets or conventional highways outside the access control limits of freeways and expressways. Existing emergency access granted previously is allowed to remain.

Utility support structures, manholes, or other at-surface appurtenances may be allowed in interchange or median areas only if placement outside access control is not possible and approved by DLP.

Access from through traffic lanes or ramps should not be permitted except as approved by the Program Manager, DLP. Terms and conditions may be imposed to ensure safety.

Fire, law enforcement, and other emergency agencies may breach access controls, if necessary, to respond to specific emergencies. However, they must restore the State right of way, at their expense, and must obtain an encroachment permit to do so. The Program Manager, DLP must approve or deny any exceptions to this policy after district review and recommendation.